



# The GSChronicles

May 2009

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## Upcoming Events

### May

- 28 GPP Thesis Defense, 1PM
- 29 Individual Partnership Student Lunch, 12:30PM

### June

- 1 GSC Meeting, 4PM
- 2 Community Service (food packing), 6:30PM
- 2 Grad Student Monthly Orientation, 8:30-10AM
- 3 Campus Triad Lunch, 12PM
- 5 Improving Spoken English Seminar, 1-3PM
- 11 GPP New Student Orientation (2 days)
- 25 GPP New Student Orientation (2 days)
- 26 GSC Open House, 1-2PM

### July

- 3 Independence Day (Federal Holiday)
- 16 Grad Student Retreat (2 days)

## Announcements

### ■ GSC Meeting:

The next GSC meeting will be held on Monday, **June 1st at 4PM in Bldg 50 Rm 1328/1334**. Refreshments will be provided. For RML students, the videoconference will be in RML Bldg 11 conference room (at **2PM MST**).

### ■ Community Service:

The next service event at Manna food warehouse is **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Every other month, the Committee helps prepare boxes of food for distribution to hungry families (many referred from the NIH Clinical Center) in Montgomery County. This is a fun way to give back to our local community and meet some friendly grad students. We meet at **6:30PM** in front of Bldg 2 to carpool. Contact [GSCservice@od.nih.gov](mailto:GSCservice@od.nih.gov) to sign up!

### ■ Dissertation Discussion Group:

Are you in the process of writing your dissertation? Let's get together as a group, led by Dr. Betsey Wagener, to discuss your progress, writer's block struggles, and tips for other students! The goal is

to provide support, focus, and problem-solving strategies for graduate students at the dissertation or thesis writing stage. All levels of dissertation writing and all fields are welcome. Meetings are every other Tuesday, 12-1PM, Bldg 2, Room 2W15 (2nd Floor Conference Room). Please register in advance at

<http://www.training.nih.gov/nihonly/register/dissertation-discussion-group.asp>.

### ■ June Campus Triad Lunch:

NIH graduate students meet monthly for lunch at various cafeterias across the NIH campus. The next Triad Lunch for those on NIH main campus will be on Wednesday, **June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12 noon** in the Bldg 1, Bldg 10/B1, and Bldg 35 cafeterias. Please join your Campus Area mailing list at

<http://gpp.nih.gov/Current/GraduateStudentCouncil/GSCListServes/>.

### ■ 2009 Graduate Student Retreat, July 16-17:

**Location:** Rocky Gap Lodge and Golf Resort, Flintstone, MD

**Registration:** <http://tinyurl.com/OITE-2009-07-16>

**Abstract Submission:** <http://tinyurl.com/OITE-RetreatAbstract>

Don't miss this exciting event open to all graduate students doing dissertation research at NIH! Each year, PhD students get together for 2 days of science, professional/career development, food and fun. All lodging and meals are paid for by the GPP. Bus transportation from the Bethesda campus will be provided if you would like to ride to the retreat with a group of students. The theme for this year will be "Leadership in Life and in the Lab," and we will have exciting sessions led by a local expert in the area of leadership, Hile Rutledge, from Otto Kroeger Associates.

### ■ NIH-GPP Thesis Defense:

Ethan Bromberg-Martin, a GPP student in the National Eye Institute and the Department of Neuroscience at Brown University will be presenting his thesis research at the NIH on **May 28<sup>th</sup>** at 1PM in Bldg 49 Rm 1A51. He invites you to attend this presentation, entitled "The Role of Dopamine in Information-Seeking". His final defense will be on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Brown University.

Please come and support graduate student research at the NIH. If you would like to schedule a defense at NIH, contact [GSCthesis@od.nih.gov](mailto:GSCthesis@od.nih.gov).

▪ **GSX Listserv:**

The Graduate Student Exchange (GSX) is a social listserv for grad students at NIH. Postings for roommates, items for sale, and social outings are common. It's a great way to connect to fellow grad students. To join the group, visit

<http://gpp.nih.gov/Current/GraduateStudentCouncil/GSCListServes/>.

▪ **GS3:**

The **Graduate Student Seminar Series (GS3)** is a monthly meeting where students present their work to fellow graduate students. The GS3 Committee is now scheduling speakers for our Graduate Student Seminar Series for the remainder of the 2009. Just fill out the GS3 Entry Form at <http://gpp.nih.gov/NR/rdonlyres/82279534-3D48-4AD4-9D53-01F61A638353/19603/GS3FormatForm.doc> and submit it to [GSCgs3@od.nih.gov](mailto:GSCgs3@od.nih.gov) in order to be considered for this unique seminar series!

▪ **BSBIG:**

**The Biophysics and Structural Biology Graduate Student Interest Group** will resume in the fall. The first meeting of the month focuses on learning a new laboratory technique, whereas the second meeting of the month is used to discuss a paper that uses the technique. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, contact [GSCstructbiol@od.nih.gov](mailto:GSCstructbiol@od.nih.gov).

▪ **SNIG:**

The **Systems Neuroscience Interest Group for Graduate Students** is a group of students interested in systems/ cognitive/ clinical neuroscience. To learn more about SNIG, visit: <http://gpp.nih.gov/Current/GraduateStudentCouncil/GSCCommittees/Academic.htm#SNIG>. If you are interested in joining SNIG or have questions, please email [GSCsnig@od.nih.gov](mailto:GSCsnig@od.nih.gov).

**Happy Birthday to:** Josh Currie (May 3<sup>rd</sup>), Arjun Prasad (May 5<sup>th</sup>), Fan Mei (May 6<sup>th</sup>), Hongdian Yang (May 10<sup>th</sup>), Ashley Hardin (May 19<sup>th</sup>), Amrita Ghosh (May 19<sup>th</sup>), Lindsay Case (May 19<sup>th</sup>).

**Upcoming Birthdays:** Cathy Kolf (June 2<sup>nd</sup>), Katherine Bricceno (June 12<sup>th</sup>), Tony Barnitz (June 12<sup>th</sup>), Brent Hehl (June 13<sup>th</sup>), Scott Steward-Tharp (June 19<sup>th</sup>), Katharina Richmond (June 26<sup>th</sup>), Stephanie Payne (June 28<sup>th</sup>), Ben McNeil (June 30<sup>th</sup>).

Please **send your publications, awards, graduation, and birthday announcements** to [GSChronicles@od.nih.gov](mailto:GSChronicles@od.nih.gov) for recognition.

## Graduate Student Spotlight



### Angelo Kolokithas

Angelo was born and raised in San Diego, CA. He lived in the valley and describes it as pretty stereotypical, with a laid-back beach culture. In a staggering contrast to California's sunny backdrop, Angelo unfortunately experienced several tragedies during his youth. At age eight, Angelo's first best friend passed away. Since then, he has unfortunately watched an abnormally high number of individuals close to him die of diseases for which there were no treatments at the time. As a result, Angelo has been on a mission to prevent premature death and suffering through biomedical research.

Angelo chose to stay in San Diego for undergraduate studies at San Diego State University, where he majored in Cellular and Molecular Biology and undertook a wide array of scientific projects. His first taste of molecular biology involved assisting a retiring professor with the identification of soil microbes. Because the lab was not equipped with a PCR machine, he spent a lot of time moving tubes between water baths. After a short stint in an entomology lab, Angelo joined a virology lab in his junior year, in which he primarily focused on the development of longer-lasting flu vaccines. He graduated in 2003 and worked at Stratagene for 3 years in the R&D cell biology group, during which time he developed several products that people are using to publish today.

Currently a third year graduate student at the University of Montana, Angelo is affiliated with NIAID, LVPD at the Rocky Mountain Labs (RML) in Montana, and works directly with Leonard (Pug) Evans. His thesis work focuses on how murine

retroviruses (such as Murine Leukemia virus, or MuLV) are able to escape the action of a cellular restriction factor, APOBEC3.

In addition to working in the lab, Angelo is active in the GSC community. He started last year and still runs RML's own monthly newsletter. Angelo also organizes most of the graduate student events, and he helped form the post-bac/grad student/post doc alliance at RML. He is also organizing efforts to get subsidized childcare as a benefit for IRTAs. On top of his involvement with GSC, Angelo finds time to volunteer with BRASS (an after-school interactive science program for middle school students), and to speak at Career Days, citing his passion for getting kids excited about science.

When asked for advice for his fellow graduate students, Angelo said the following:  
"Many people I have talked to have at one time or another wanted to quit. You have the once-in-a-lifetime chance to make a difference not only in your family, community, city, state, or country, but you can change the entire world! Yes, you as a single person can do it! Regardless of what you think or your PI tells you, you, yes, you, are important and special."

## **GSC Meeting Overview: 05/04/09**

**Next meeting** will be June 1<sup>st</sup>, 4-5PM, Bldg 50 Rm 1328/1334.

### **GPP Notes:**

- Dissertation Discussion Group to meet biweekly starting 5/5/09 at noon in Bldg 2, Rm 2W15.

### **General Business:**

- Seeking student donations for the new Grad Student Lounge. To contribute old textbooks, posters from conferences, photos from GPP events, etc., contact [GSCcochair@od.nih.gov](mailto:GSCcochair@od.nih.gov).

### **Academic Committee:**

- There are 28 summer journal clubs in Bethesda, with 8 at satellite campuses
- The Systems Neuroscience Interest Group is looking for a new leader.

### **Community Service:**

- Manna food box packing on June 2nd.

### **Partnership Representatives:**

- Individual student monthly lunches are the last Friday of the month (May 29th for this month) at 12:30pm.

### **Public Relations Committee:**

- Working to set up a LinkedIn account for GPP networking on campus.

### **Retreat Committee:**

- This year's GPP student retreat will happen July 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> at Rocky Gap; theme will be Leadership and Personality in Lab and Life.

## **Science Policy Headlines**

*In this section of the GSChronicles, we will highlight a few science policy news stories which are relevant to the general scientific community. If you have suggestions regarding this column, or if you would like to contribute a headline of interest, please email [GSChronicles@od.nih.gov](mailto:GSChronicles@od.nih.gov).*

### **Proposed R&D budget for 2010 fiscal year increases funds for biomedical research:**

- **Provisions:** \$147.6 billion for research and development in 2010, a \$555 million (or 0.4%) increase from the 2009 budget (including the extra \$18.3 billion from the economic stimulus package).
- **Background:** Facing substantial economic turmoil and growing deficits, President Obama released a detailed Fiscal Year 2010 budget on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009. While the plan does reduce or eliminate several programs, the president identified health care, energy, and education as vital components of the path towards economic recovery.
- **Why you should care:** The current proposal includes more opportunities for scientists at the beginning of their careers, including a plan to triple the number of Graduate Research Fellowships from the National Science Foundation. Greater emphasis will be placed on trans-NIH programs and high-risk discovery initiatives. In total, \$30.8 billion is intended for the NIH, a 1.5% increase from last year. Find more information at <http://www.ostp.gov/galleries/budget/biomedical.pdf> <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/>.

### **President Obama names members of Science and Technology Advisory Council (PCAST):**

- PCAST should represent leaders from a diverse range of scientific backgrounds, who might provide the president counsel on numerous issues involving science and/or healthcare.
- The 3 co-chairs of PCAST will be John P. Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology; Eric Lander, Director of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and a leader of the Human Genome Project; and Harold Varmus, President and CEO of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, former head of the NIH, and a Nobel laureate.
- Find more information at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/President-Obama-Announces-Members-of-Science-and-Technology-Advisory-Council/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Announces-Members-of-Science-and-Technology-Advisory-Council/)

## **Tip of the Month:**

### ***Online Networking at NIH***

Have you wondered how to expand your online network at the NIH? LinkedIn is a popular professional networking site that can introduce you to mutual connections in a work capacity and potentially help you on a job search. There is already an NIH presence on LinkedIn; search for the group NIH Intramural Science, and ask to join. To facilitate searching for other people working at the NIH, the OITE recommends that you list "National Institutes of Health" as your appointment, rather than your particular institution. Visit <http://www.linkedin.com/> for more information, or read an insightful article about the site here: [http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career\\_development/previous\\_issues/articles/2008\\_07\\_25/caredit\\_a0800112](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_development/previous_issues/articles/2008_07_25/caredit_a0800112).

## **Graduate Student Entertainment**

Take a moment to broaden (while both broadening and narrowing) your scientific horizons with this blast from the past that some may recognize from their science classes days of old.

Powers of Ten video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2cmIhfdxuY>

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